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A Publication Concerned With Natural History and Conservation

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President
David W. Moore

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

J. Edward Baldwin & Family
The Bedard Family
Lois J. Burns & Family
The Casagrande Family
B. Caughlan & M. Panciuk
Nancy Codd
Sarah A. Coulber
Suzanne P. Coulombe
Suzanne C. Curry
Dwight Delahunt & Family
Wendy B. Denyes & Family
Janet B. Dunbrack
Lorraine F. Eggens & Family
Ms. Lynda Fitzpatrick
Brian R. Girard & Family
Patricia Hamilton
Frances M. Harding & Family
Eulice Harris
Gail & Bill Hawke
Andrea B. Hooker
Rod Huggins & Family
Betty A. Ironmonger
David & Kim Jones
Carole H. Junas
Martine A. Lanoix
Yvan F. Larche
Jennifer M. Line
Terry M. Maulsby
M. Caro Molson
Pat E. Moretti & Family
Natalie Morisset
James J. Murphy & Family
John W. Nelms & Family
Catherine Paterson
Claude Pilon & Family
Sandra Porter
Thomas K. Robb & Family
Michel Rochon
M. Jean Saldanha & Family
John R. Thomas & Family
Dr. John & Betty Valberg
Joe T. Walford
Ron Webb & Family
John & Rosemary Williams

Other Areas

Margaret Arnaudin
L'Acadie, QC

Grant A. Bickel
Petawawa, ON

Judith A. Bunger
Smiths Falls, ON

Tina Crossfield
Ile-Perrot, QC

Carey D. Purdon & Family
Golden Lake, ON

P.J. Mickey Narraway
Membership Committee
May, 1996

Council Report

Frank Pope

This report presents a summary of some of the more significant issues addressed by the Council from January to May this year. Meetings of the Council are fast paced and they cover a wide range of subjects. After approving the minutes of the last meeting, the Council receives reports on assignments identified in those minutes, then reviews communications since the last meeting and proceeds to committee reports. Each committee provides a summary of its activities over the year in the Council's annual report to the membership.

The Conservation Committee continues to carry a heavy load on our behalf by writing and presenting briefs concerning municipal, regional, provincial and federal issues. A tool they have found to be very useful for picking up the latest environmental news and exchanging information is the Ontario Environmental Network, an on-line computer network. The Club has been a member of the network for some years now. Recently we learned that the Ontario government is cutting the core funding of the Ontario Environmental Network, thereby threatening its continuing existence. The Council decided to show its support for the network by reacting quickly with a pledge of $500 toward its maintenance.

Many of you may have come across an OFNC exhibit at some public event. Some of you have even served as staff at these exhibits. Have you noticed that exhibits are more and more professionally done these days? The Council is of the opinion that the competence of OFNC should be fully reflected by the appearance of its exhibits. Furthermore, since they are mounted and staffed by volunteers, the OFNC should give them the best tools possible. Accordingly, Council authorized up to $1,000 toward a portable free standing display stand.

The administration of the Experimental Farm has been under constant and increasing pressure to reduce and rationalize expenditures. The Council has been aware that, notwithstanding the long and fruitful relationship the Club has had with the administration of the Experimental Farm, the facilities we have enjoyed may not be available indefinitely. The latest pressure point relates to storage space for Club publications. The Council has decided that provisions must be made for storage in case we are obliged to move the documents. Firstly, print runs will be brought as close as is safe to the numbers required for distribution. Secondly, a minimum number of back issues of *T&L* and *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* will be set and surplus copies destroyed. This has

already been done for *T&L*. Other measures include offering back issues of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* to Canadian subscribers for the cost of shipping, giving some special publications to the local universities, offering publications for sale at the interpretation centre in the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, and asking some members to store selected special publications.

At the last Annual Business Meeting a member noticed that the financial transactions associated with the Fletcher Wildlife Garden did not appear in the OFNC financial statements. Since its inception, the Garden has operated independently. Nevertheless, financial statements for the Garden, monitored by the Treasurer, and audited as required for grant applications have always been available, although the information has not been printed for members at large. The Council has addressed this issue by deciding to include the financial transactions of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden in the regular accounts of the OFNC. They will appear as reports on a Fletcher Wildlife Garden fund into which directed donations, grants, OFNC budget allocations and miscellaneous revenues will be placed and from which all garden expenses will be drawn in accordance with the mandate of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden as defined by the Council.¤

Jeff Harrison, 1995 Conservation Award Winner, at the 1996 Soirée chatting with Ellaine Dickson and Mickey Narraway (l.-r.)

The 1996 Soirée and the 1995 OFNC Awards

Cendrine Huemer

There were no sequins, no tuxedos and definitely no limousines. This awards night didn't need them. People brought their friends, good stories, and showed off some of their talent and knowledge about the region's natural history.

The Club held its annual awards night at the Unitarian Church on April 26. Several Club members were recognized for their outstanding contributions. The Anne Hanes' Natural History Award was given to Marilyn Light for her work on the orchids of Gatineau Park. The award for Member of the Year went to Bob Bracken for his generous sharing of knowledge on natural history. The 1995 Conservation Award went to Jeff Harrison for his work as the chairman and primary mover of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. The 1995 Conservation Award for a Non-member went to Kit Chubb and the Avian Care and Research Centre in Verona for her work in the rehabilitation of birds. Past-president Frank Pope secretly reserved his pick for the President's prize for that night. Dave Smythe accepted this prize for his untiring and meticulous yet invisible work in keeping Club records since 1991.

The Macoun Field Club members were also there to proudly present their various projects. Hugo Kitching won 1st prize for his project on lichen identification, Susan Oda earned 2nd prize for her project on wolf behaviour and biology, Pascal Lussier received 3rd prize for his project on lightning, and William Godsoe earned an honourable mention for his fossil collection. These awards were presented by Connie Clark. Macoun Field Club Presidents, Susan Oda (Juniors), Hugo Kitching (Intermediates), and Rebecca Danard (Seniors), gave presentations on their past year's activities, and reminded us how the Macoun Field Club is a perfect way to make lifetime friends.

There was a photo contest as well. Club members voted the best shot of the evening to be a misty closeup of a bloom by Maxine Oldham. Carolyn Molson and Peter Roberts received honourable mentions for their photos. Lovely artwork was exhibited including pastel watercolour blooms, feather-perfect sparrows, and birding scenes by Mickey Narraway, Audrey Furlong, Heather

Bale, and Laura Mahone. Hopefully next year there will be more from these artists as well as others.

If you weren't there, you missed the chance to see familiar faces and partake of the goodies and wine expertly organized by Eileen Evans and her team. Join us next year for sharing stories, meeting people (and sipping wine).

Here's another rousing round of applause for all of this year's winners.¤

Dave Moore
OFNC President.

Cendrine Huemer (l.) presenting the
Conservation Award for a Non-member to Kit Chubb.

Frank Pope (l.) presenting the
Presidents Prize for 1995 to Dave Smythe.

Marilyn Light (l.) receiving the Anne Hanes Natural History Award from Bill Arthurs.

Bob Bracken Member of the Year.

Susan Oda, President of the Juniors and recipient of 2nd Prize.

Hugo Kitching, President of Intermediates, receiving 1st Prize from Connie Clark

Pascal Lussier (Intermediate) recipient of 3rd Prize.

Rebecca Danard President of the Seniors.

Bill Dore

S. J. Darbyshire and J. M. Gillett

Few long-time members of the OFNC will not know Bill Dore, if not from personal acquaintance at meetings or field trips, at least from his many contributions to *T&L* and *The Canadian Field-Naturalist.* Sadly, Bill Dore died on his 84th birthday, 17th April 1996. Various health problems had dogged him in the last few years, slowly depriving him of the physical ability to pursue his field activities. His visitors, however, continued to enjoy his unique powers of observation, penetrating insight and keen wit.

To those who knew him from his scientific writings, he was William George Dore (B.A., Queen's University, 1933; M.Sc., McGill University, 1935; Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1948). To those who had the pleasure of joining him on a ramble through his beloved Ottawa Valley he was Bill, naturalist and historian.

Bill was born in Ottawa and grew up in Ottawa South, near what was then known as Dow's Swamp (now the Carleton University Campus). His early interest in natural history led him to join the OFNC in 1931. His participation in Club activities continued until the Soirée of 1995 (see *T&L* vol. 29, page 85, for a picture of Bill with Mary Stuart), an incredible 64 years of activities and contributions. His outstanding contributions to the OFNC, the natural history of the Ottawa District and to Canadian science was recognized by the OFNC in 1974 with the conferral of an honourary membership. His silver pin was worn proudly for the following 12 years on the hat which he wore in the field and garden.

One of the most remarkable abilities that Bill possessed was to be able to write in such a way as to present unique and valuable scientific observations and deductions in a form that was easily readable by all audiences. His articles in *T&L* from volume 1, were what editor Ann Hanes called "real meat," not just observation reporting, but inductive reasoning and analysis. His book on Wild Rice, the only native Canadian cereal, was a triumph of scientific analysis combined with a presentation that made it one of the most popular publications ever produced by the Canada Department of Agriculture. This publication's scientific analysis has been confirmed by all subsequent 'modern' studies, as well as bringing him a personal letter of congratulation from a fellow biologist of note, the Emperor of Japan, Hirohito.

Thus the man known as W. G. Dore, or just plain Bill, was known and respected from his backyard to the far corners of the world. Colleagues and friends will miss his enthusiasm, wit and persistence in botanically related problems.

W. G. Dore's contributions in *T&L*

Dore, W.G. 1967. Skunk Cabbage rare in Ottawa District. *T&L* 1(1): 4-8.
1967. A mingling of maples. *T&L* 1(3): 64-67.
1967. Canadian Milk-vetch, *Astragalus canadensis*. *T&L* 1(4): 84-87.
1968. Hackberry. *T&L* 2(3): 68.
1968. Blue Phlox at its northern limit. *T&L* 2(3): 70-75.
1968. Two old Jack Pines: where are they now? *T&L* 2(5): 137.
1968. A remarkable plant, this Helleborine! *T&L* 2(6): 146-147.
1969. Naturalist activity of long ago (1863). *T&L* 3(2): 37-40.
1969. Pink Ladyslippers. *T&L* 3(4): 112-113.
1970. Fungus outing in Gatineau Park. *T&L* 4(1): 13.
1976. The Dinosaur Stone near Kazabazua. *T&L* 10(5): 107-109.
1977. That Helleborine again. *T&L* 11(2): 58-59.
1983. The first plant specimen collected at Ottawa. *T&L* 17(3): 128-132.
1986. The reappearing Helleborine. *T&L* 20(1): 22-23.¤

Three at Mud Lake

Marianne Bluger Neily

– for Gordon Pringle

Silence – so solid
you could plant your feet and stand
as on warm Laurentian granite
we sometimes do watching the world
tilt into misty blue vistas...

A great liquid good
the quiet flows into my soul
like a gulp of cold water
on a dogday of August
assuaging every cell.

On the far shore a kingfisher
rattles through blazing birch
to perch on his waterfront snag.

Then silence again

until Mallards
quacking above veer in
to drop with a skidding splash
on the glassy surface.

We watch them drift slowly off
into rushes where Wood Ducks still
in vestiges of breeding splendour
feed placidly on water meal

and two Blanding's Turtles
afloat on a log glint where they bask
stretch-necked in the late-day sun.

Then the stillness resumes
suspended a moment
by the cry of a gull
and not broken
but deepened...

Out lazily cruising
a grebe in the tiny bay
dives with no sound
and surfaces beaking a frog;

and then the red-wings in the buttonbush
for their own secret reason
take up their slow 'kong koreeeeee.'

Now quite without warning six crows
swoop in raucously to mob
the Osprey who sits
motionless in his wind-ripped spruce;

dour unperturbed he endures
until the ragged nuisances
flap haplessly back to their pines.

Once more stillness reigns.

Beat from a day in the field
the three of us wait
not knowing exactly for what...

I jot down fieldnotes

Gordon lights his Sunday cigarette
and as the slow tobacco smoke ascends
like some sweet ritual
    incense of thanks
for this clear autumn day
with us together forever friends

you touch my hand
wanting us both to look up
as three Black-crowned Night Herons
back from their nest-grounds up north
with cumbrous grace
glide in through the gloaming to roost.

An Unusual Adoption/Abduction

James D. Georgiles

During the summer of 1995, during my regular walks along the banks of the Rideau River as it flows through Vincent Massey Park, Ottawa, I would observe a mallard with her brood of seven ducklings. She seemed to favour a curve in the river bank opposite Carleton University just north of the railway trestle bridge and here staked her territory. Seldom venturing outside this area, she would tolerate no violation of it and would swim purposefully at any mallard who approached too close.

Further downstream was another mallard, who too was the proud and protective mother of seven ducklings of about the same age as the territorial mallard's brood. On several occasions I observed this mallard, whom I will designate the "Northern Duck," approach the territory of the territorial duck. Each time the latter, with her brood in tow would swim rapidly toward the invader, who, even though still a respectable distance away, would immediately veer into midstream and conduct her brood to a more distant area where they could feed unmolested.

The above scenario was repeated sporadically during several weeks with no more than a show of force by the territorial mallard and a dignified retreat by the intruder. The vegetation along the riverbank had over the weeks grown profusely until it gave visual shelter to the "Southern Duck's" territory. Then one day the "Northern Duck," swimming strongly upstream along the bank with her brood, suddenly and inadvertently burst into the "Southern Duck's" *sacra sanctum*.

Feathers flew as the defender hurled herself through the air at the startled intruder, who took to the air in a whirr of wings and beat a hasty retreat downstream. The sudden noise stampeded both broods of ducklings and the surface of the water was churned by the frantic feet of "North's" ducklings as they scampered after their dam and by those of some of "South's" brood, who disorientated, sped off with the retreating ducks.

When tranquility again pervaded the scene, I saw that the territorial mallard was left with only two of her brood. My wife and I waited half an hour expecting the missing ducklings to reappear or the bereaved parent to venture forth in search and succour of her missing offspring, but neither situations transpired. We continued our walk downstream and were surprised to see the "Northern

Mallard" swimming complacently along with a flotilla of twelve contented ducklings in tow.

We watched both families regularly over the following weeks: the augmented family remained together as a compact family unit until the ducklings attained maturity. There were no more intrusions; "North" had learned her lesson and never again ventured near "South's" territory and "South" either accepted her loss or was glad to get rid of a few feathered fiends. Or, as my wife ventured, perhaps mallards can only count up to two.¤

A Winter Yard

Robert Nero

Suddenly summer yardwork
seems more than we planned
trees and shrubs we planted
over the many years designed
to make a private place now
overwhelm us with excess foliage
branches, boughs burgeoning
crowding, begging for pruning
a bewildering barrage of growth
too lush, overdone I thought
wiping sweat from my eyes
then paused, remembering how
the greenery of summer dissolves
fall's descent drawing down
our long winter's bleak chill
relieved by evergreen's cheer
leafless boughs patterned against
cold winds and sifting snow
these trunks, branches, boughs
a charming winter bastion.

The Day It Rained Maggots

Fenja Brodo

A surprise was in store for us when we ventured out on a warm, sunny, July 15, 1995. Covering our car and driveway were thousands of minute, elongated, white wormy-like things, each no longer than 1.5 mm, and less than 0.3 mm wide. They were so small that none of our visitors even saw these specks until they were pointed out to them, even though these creatures were so numerous and quite contrasty against our dark car and even darker driveway.

It was a pleasantly warm day and we were geared up to go hiking in the Gatineau, but first we (or rather I) had to find out what these little white things were. They appeared to jump or be catapulted a few centimetres in the air, behaving very much like springtails (Order Collembola), only our little animals were white and far from some water source or dampness. We watched them apparently contracting slightly, bending up an end almost at right angles to the rest of their tiny bodies, and then abruptly releasing this hold, causing them to be hurled up several body lengths and landing softly several centimetres away. It was impossible to see which end was being bent up because we couldn't tell which was the head end until we had a few safely captured in alcohol. Even then I was not quite certain until I had one on a slide under my microscope.

I guessed that these must be all midges (Family Cecidomyiidae) because about a month earlier a gentleman had brought into my lab a vial of very similar little white things that he also described as jumping like springtails and which he thought had come from his pin oak tree (*Quercus palustris*). At that time I recognized that he had maggots (fly larvae) because of the number of segments (considerably less that worms, centipedes or millipedes), there was no sign of legs and they did not have much of a head. But it was Dr. Dick Vockeroth, retired entomologist at the Experimental Farm, who verified that they were gall midge larvae.

We probably had different species of gall midges because these tiny flies are quite host specific and ours showered down on us fully a month later as well as from a quite different tree. (There are no pin oaks nearby.) Neither of us had ever heard of or seen this phenomenon before.

There is a beautiful, mature ash tree (*Fraxinus pennsylvanicus*) shading our driveway and these tiny maggots must have fallen from there. In vain we searched the leaves, petioles, branches, seeds, and bark for some clue as to where

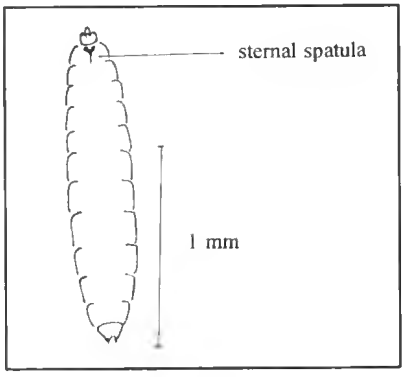
they came from. When we returned home from our hike, in the late afternoon, there were still hundreds of these minute insects around but they did not seem to be as active; not many were jumping. By the next morning they had all disappeared as if they had been just a dream (or a nightmare). The few that I attempted to rear to adulthood eventually perished.

Several times during the summer I scrutinized the fallen ash leaves very carefully seeking some clue as to where my white maggots came from. Gagné, a specialist on these little flies, describes gall midge larvae as being in succulent mid ribs of leaves or in their petioles and producing a slight swelling. The larvae, he says, drop to the ground when they are fully grown and probably overwinter there.

To identify the species, these larvae would have to be reared to adults. Had I been successful, I might have found myself with a species new to science. Gagné estimates that only a small number of species have been described to date. About 100 species have been reported from Canada but it is estimated that 1500 species remain undescribed or unreported from Canada. (That is biodiversity for you!)

Adult cecids are very tiny, fragile flies, 1-5 mm long and usually recognized by their bead-like antennae and the peculiarities of their wing venation. Not all of the flies in this family are gall makers. Some live in flowers, some in pine cones and one group of species are predacious.

The larvae have reduced mouthparts modified for a liquid diet and are recognized (under the microscope) by the typically clove-shaped plate, called a sternal spatula, which lies just behind the tiny cone-shaped head on the underside of the larva (see the drawing).



Gall midge larva showing the ventral (underside) view.

Madawaska Highlands - An Autumn Adventure

Mary Hoth

Heaven smiled on the weekend of September 29 to October 1 when the Federation of Ontario Naturalists scheduled "The Madawaska Highlands - An Autumn Adventure" tour. The weather was superb – sunny and in the low 20°'sC. Gentle breezes allowed the brilliantly coloured leaves to enjoy one last dance before they would flutter to the forest floor.

We were to meet on Friday evening at "White Pines," a resort on Black Donald Lake near Calabogie, owned and operated by Shawn and Valerie Popkie. Shawn Popkie grew up in the area and remembers at the age of seven when White Fish Lake and the Madawaska River area were flooded in 1967 to produce the present Black Donald and Centennial Lakes.

I arrived in the afternoon, met our tour guides Mark Stabb, a biologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Caroline Schultz, a biologist with the Canadian Nature Federation.

We also met a small bear cub in a large cage beside the Popkies home. "Bear-nice" had been found alone and starving in the nearby woods and was being restored to health before her eventual release into the wild.

The Madawaska and Mt. St. Patrick areas were not totally new to me. I have enjoyed several wonderful spring and winter trips to Sheila and Harry Thomson's cabin in the vicinity, courtesy of the Thomsons and the OFNC Excursions & Lectures Committee.

The two-bedroom housekeeping cabin I was to share was on a little hillock about 40 feet from the shore of Black Donald Lake. An island aglow in autumn foliage was situated about 80 feet off shore. The view of the lake with the greens of the conifers contrasting with the reds and golds of the hardwoods created a dazzling scene from the cabin's livingroom and kitchen windows.

I took advantage of the daylight hours to enjoy a two-hour canoe ride among the islands, watching the sunset and returning by the light of the new moon. A kingfisher, a loon, a heron and several gulls kept me company. Helene, my cabin mate, had arrived by the time I returned ashore. We made a simple evening meal in our cabin kitchen and became acquainted.

Later in the evening our group of eight participants met at Mark and Caroline's cabin for an orientation and slide show presentation on the Madawaska Highlands. Members of the group had traveled from London, Toronto, Aurora and Ottawa to enjoy this Natural History outing.

After a discussion of plans for Saturday's hike, and a social hour including light refreshments, we made our way back to our cabins under starry skies, bidding "Bear-nice" good night as we passed by her cage.

While Helene and I prepared and ate breakfast in our cabin Saturday morning, we were able to enjoy the sunlight dancing on the blue water, intensifying the brilliant autumn foliage.

We car-pooled early that morning for the short trip along a narrow logging road into Centennial Lake Park. This beautiful park of 545 hectares was established in 1988 and contains several islands, including Black Donald Island. We stopped along the road while Mark pointed out the clear cut areas that had been replanted with tiny red and white pine and spruce trees. Mark advised us that recent high winds had resulted in many windfalls. He had had to reroute our original hiking trail in several areas. However, the beautiful and interesting aspects of our hike had not been compromised. This simply reassured us that in the wilderness, nature still reigns supreme and remains a force to be reckoned with.

The warm and sunny weather was a bonus as we began our steep but leisurely ascent of Bluff Mountain, noting wolf scat, deer droppings, Ruffed Grouse feathers marking a kill, several large weather-worn vertebrae of a long-dead deer, as well as live Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets and several "confusing fall warblers." We discovered, and caught briefly for observation, a little Green Snake. Helene mustered courage and held the little snake, confessing it was a first time event. She was so intrigued with the little creature she took a photograph.

The effort of our climb was well rewarded by a magnificent view of Oakhill Lake from the top of Bluff Mountain. From this vantage point we enjoyed our generous (seconds upon request!) and delicious lunch packed for us by Caroline.

Mark announced a reward for the person who could find a small bronze plaque pegged to the rock shelf with the inscription "God grant us wisdom to know 'In wildness is the preservation of the world.'"

The plaque is dated 1978 and was placed there by a man who regularly hiked for miles to fish and camp in this wilderness area. The statement "In Wildness

is the preservation of the World" prompted a discussion as to its origin. Most of us felt it was very likely a quote from Henry David Thoreau. But Mark said that his research as to authorship proved inconclusive.

I had, at that very moment, a small booklet in my backpack entitled: "Walking" by Thoreau. In it, on page 19, I later discovered this oft-quoted phrase written by Thoreau in the nineteenth century. I had brought this booklet as appropriate reading for a weekend of hiking but had not yet read more than three or four pages. Mark, intrigued by this compact little book of wisdom, subsequently purchased a copy and independently discovered the source of the quote.

Now, when rereading this booklet, my spirit is whisked back to that enchanting moment when companions of like-mind shared a resting place on that warm September afternoon.

Our tranquil reverie was interrupted by the surprising sight of a canoe emerging from a marshy section of this remote lake. Several of us scrambled down the abrupt 300 feet descent to the shores of Oakhill Lake to chat with the occupants of the canoe who were fishermen from Eganville. They had brought the canoe over rough terrain and along a marshy creek.

Arriving back at White Pine Lodge, Helene and I had time for a wonderful two-hour canoe trip among the islands in the warm afternoon sun.

At 5 o'clock we showed up at Caroline and Mark's cabin with bib, tucker and a keen appetite, anticipating our promised barbeque. No one was disapointed. A wonderfully sociable hour followed while we enjoyed souvlaki, tsatsiki, caesar salad, hot garlic bread and wine or soft drinks served on the deck overlooking the sparkling waters of Black Donald Lake.

After dinner we set out in several motor boats to explore the islands and shore line of Black Donald Lake. We were rewarded by a beautiful sunset promising another warm and sunny day. Returning to our guides' cabin we enjoyed hot drinks and dessert and discussed plans for the morrow.

Sunday morning was our sleep-in day and we did not leave till nine o'clock for our trip to the 65-hectare Madawatchan Nature Reserve. The Reserve, established in 1970, can be accessed only by boat, which we rented from Jack Holleran who owns a resort on Hutson Lake which borders on the Reserve.

We stopped at several locations on the rugged shore, exploring a mature hemlock stand and examining the Walking Fern, Maidenhair Spleenwort as well as other limestone-loving flora. We also discovered a large 3-pronged deer antler (one prong mostly chewed away by mice). We basked on granite rocks and

enjoyed another delicious picnic lunch. It was so warm several of us wished we had brought bathing suits.

After lunch we slowly motored back to Holleran's dock, reluctant to leave this beautiful and interesting wilderness.

So ended a wonderful nature tour with excellent guides and most enjoyable companions.¤

A Lichenologist's Lament

Irwin M. Brodo

A lichen is kind of a plant
Known well by each beetle and ant,
For the creatures that crawl,
Whether bulky or small,
Can see it up close, where we can't.

So we gather our lenses and scopes,
And keep going on infinite hopes
Of advancing our science
With tool and appliance,
By getting to learn all the ropes.

But these days one needs stuff in a bottle
To daub on our orchil and crottle.*
Is it yellow or red?
Is it nothing instead?!
Seem's it's chemists, not me, at the throttle.

But I still think that lichens are cute,
All dressed up in their red soldier's suit.
Now they're cups, now they're hair,
Growing here, growing there,
And to get one, you don't have to shoot!

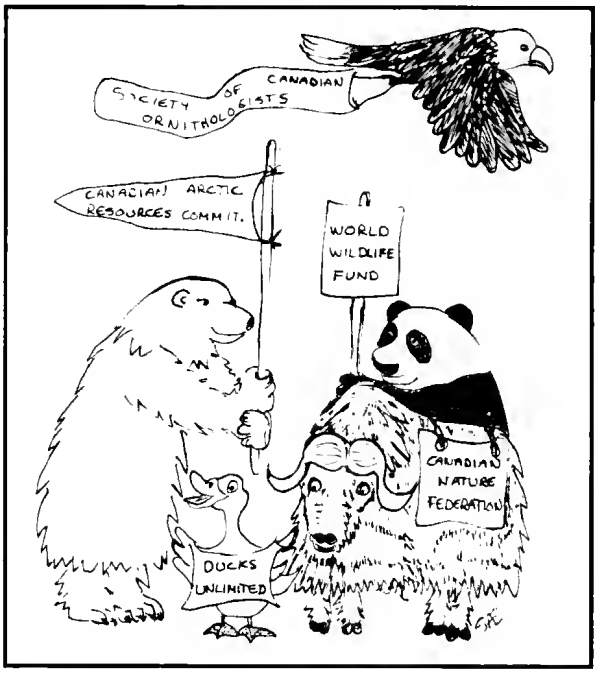
*Orchil and crottle are dye-producing lichens, using fermentation or boiling water methods, respectively.

Illustration by Brenda Carter originally appeared in *T&L* 1(5):115.

A Short Field Guide to Conservation Groups

Chapter 1: Canada's National Groups

Cendrine Huemer



Environmental groups, conservation groups, wildlife preservation groups – what's the difference? To help you sort through the 2000+ groups in Canada, this article will give you a run down of some of the main national groups with which you, as an OFNC member, may want to be familiar.

Some groups are national in scope, others provincial, others international. It all depends on tradition, the wishes of the members, donors, and the whims and passions of the boards and employees. Environmental non-government organizations, otherwise known as ENGOs, are non-profit and work to protect the natural environment. They may have different reasons for doing so, but their goals, generally speaking, are to maintain the integrity of the natural world around us.

Why so many? After all, if the groups were to gather their forces and resources in one united front, the task would be better done. The fact is, like any other field, there is a wide range of ideals to which these groups generally subscribe. Some are activists (advocating direct vigorous action), some are advocators[1] (influencing public officials to bring about legislative change), some are research groups (to give scientific credence to issues at hand), others do on-the-ground work for conservation (actual reintroduction of extirpated species for example) and others are educators (visionaries that open the horizons of the public and inspire action). Each group generally does a little of each of these activities depending on the problem at hand, and the expertise available at the time.

You can also look at it this way. An "environmental group" is concerned with issues that also concern humans, whereas a "conservation group" puts more emphasis on wildlife and less on humans. But that generalization does not always hold.

Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (CARC)

This group is the only national group in Canada that focuses on the north. It analyzes events in polar regions of other countries and applies them to the Canadian Arctic. It deals with wildlife conservation, energy and mineral development, land-use planning, aboriginal rights and land-claims and environmental contamination. It endeavours to employ good stewardship in the Arctic.

CARC does research and advocacy and has published *Northern Perspectives* for 20 years, a journal which discusses decisions that affect northern and Arctic ecosystems.

Suite 1100, 1 Nicholas Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7
(613)241-7379

Canadian Biodiversity Institute (CBI)

This institute conducts and supports training and research programs involving the public and scientific communities that inventory and monitor Canadian biodiversity. The Institute focuses on urban and wetland habitats, and parks and protected areas. CBI develops innovative education programs for the public, politicians and young people. One of these is "The School as Ecosystem," which has at its core a program which explains the benefits of greening school yards.

[1] Due to Canadian Guidelines, NGOs are not allowed to lobby per se, but are allowed to engage in advocacy.

Suite 322, 99 – 5th Ave.
Ottawa, ON K1S 5P5
(613)826-2190, (613)826-2222

Canadian Nature Federation (CNF)

CNF originated as the Canadian Audubon Society, the little cousin of the American Audubon Society (founded in 1886). The magazine *Canadian Nature* dates from 1939. In 1946, it changed its name to Canadian Audubon, and then to *Nature Canada* when the Canadian Audubon Society became the Canadian Nature Federation. This magazine was lauded as the only national magazine on Canadian natural history written by Canadians and featuring Canadian photographers. You will probably remember the Nature Canada Bookshop which closed down in September 1992.

The CNF was the primary mover of the South Moresby train a few years ago. The Federation is well respected for its scientific approach to issues, especially endangered species (with and without backbone), parks and protected areas, and birds. It is one of three ENGOs (along with the Canadian Wildlife Federation and World Wildlife Fund) affiliated with COSEWIC (the Committee on the Status of Wildlife in Canada) which collectively decides whether or not a species should be included on Canada's official endangered species list.

The CNF is the national voice of naturalists and represents 150 local and provincial natural history groups across the country. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists is its Ontario provincial affiliate, and l'Union Québécoise pour la Conservation de la Nature is the Quebec provincial affiliate. CNF brings issues of national concern to naturalists and their organizations.

Suite 520, 1 Nicholas Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7
(613)562-3447, 1-800-267-4088, Fax: (613)562-3371

Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF)

The CWF was founded in 1962 when the provincial wildlife federations decided that they needed a presence at the national level. It has recently updated its mandate from promoting the wise use of resources to also include fostering awareness and enjoyment of nature. This Federation works on issues that deal with the impact of human activities on the environment, sustainable use, wildlife and environmental research, and recommends legislative changes to protect wildlife and its habitats.

CWF has recently replaced *International Wildlife* magazine published by its American cousin, the National Wildlife Federation, with *Canadian*

Wildlife, a magazine which concentrates on Canadian wildlife rather than international wildlife. CWF now also publishes *Wild* magazine for youngsters. Its most successful program is Habitat 2000 which is aimed at schools and promotes local habitat restoration. The CWF store is presently on Merivale Road.

The Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers and La Fédération Québécoise de la Faune are the provincial affiliates of the CWF.

2740 Queensview Drive
Ottawa, ON K2B 1A2
613)721-2286

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)

CPAWS, originally the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada (NPPAC) was incorporated under federal charter in 1963. The society works to protect Canada's wild ecosystems in parks, wilderness and similar natural areas, and to preserve the full diversity of habitats and species. To achieve this objective, CPAWS employs education and advocacy. It has nine chapters across Canada (including one in Ottawa).

CPAWS keeps in contact with its membership through *Wilderness Activist*, its national newsletter. In addition, each chapter has its own newsletter. Its high quality national magazine *Borealis* was discontinued for financial reasons after four years and sixteen issues. CPAWS - Ottawa Valley Chapter is considering making its home at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden building, and that is expected to lead to a closer relationship with the OFNC.

380, 401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, ON M5V 3A8
(416)979-2722
1-800-333-WILD
Fax: (416)979-3155

Ottawa Valley Chapter
PO Box 3072, Station D
Ottawa, ON K1P 6H6
(613)730-2797
Fax: (613)730-0005

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)

To reflect the wider audience asking for wetland educational materials, DUC is expanding from waterfowl habitat restoration into wetland education on a broader scale, including wetland creepy crawlies. It was instrumental in the development of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an ambitious habitat restoration and preservation initiative. This was carried out in partnership with Environment Canada, involving projects across the country. Ducks Unlimited is particularly active in the prairies, including native tall-grass and short-grass prairie ecosystems. DUC works very closely with farmers in order to maintain co-operation towards a common goal.

DUC's decision to build its headquarters and interpretation centre in Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba's crown wetland jewel, caused international criticism.

DUC publishes the bimonthly *Conservator* magazine which deals with wetland issues.

Oak Hammock Marsh Conservation Centre
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
(204)467-3000

Earth First!

There is some confusion between this group and Friends of the Earth. The exclamation point should immediately indicate its staunch, unwavering activist stand. Although there is an Ottawa contact, this group is mostly active in the US.

PO Box 4612 Station E
Ottawa, ON K1S 5B1
(613)231-5407

Friends of the Earth (FoE)

This group is affiliated with FoE International and combines research with public information to mobilize public opinion on issues concerning urban forests, global climate change, and ozone depletion. FoE was originally a network of smaller environmental groups. The network worked so well that it became a full-fledged national group.

An FoE project you may have heard about lately is Global ReLeaf. Its goal is to replenish tree populations in urban areas and thereby underline the importance of trees to both human and ecosystem health.

701-251 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 5J6
(613)230-3352

Greenpeace

Its humble Canadian beginnings were as the "Don't Make A Wave Committee" in 1969, formed originally to protest nuclear testing. Renamed Greenpeace, it earned world renown for its protests aboard the Rainbow Warrior. Greenpeace has grown nationally and internationally with offices around the world. It campaigns for saving the whales, preventing radioactive waste dumping in the ocean, against pollution caused by the manufac-

ture of pulp and paper and against ozone depletion, and for maintaining the integrity of Antarctica's ecosystem.

Greenpeace believes in non-violent direct action which often gets this organization media coverage. Its work has brought countless issues to the forefront of public concern.

185 Spadina Avenue
Toronto, ON M5T 2C6
(416)345-8408

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)

Founded in 1963, NCC is dedicated to the acquisition and preservation of ecologically significant natural land areas throughout Canada, by setting them aside as permanent nature preserves. For example, the Grasslands Trust Fund, which it administers, collects money to buy land for the Grasslands National Park in southern Saskatchewan.

110 Eglinton Avenue West, 4th Floor
Toronto, ON M4R 2G5
(416)932-3202

Ocean Voice International

Oceans, the often forgotten ecosystem, comprise three-quarters of Earth's area, and they are being championed by this small scientifically-based ENGO. The health of our oceans is crucial to the proper workings of land ecosystems as well as vital for their own sake and for the varied marine life they support.

Formerly the International Marine Life Alliance of Canada, Ocean Voice International works on problems dealing with the health of oceans through contacts all over the world using education, training, research, and advocacy. It publishes *Seawind* magazine, which looks somewhat like this *Trail and Landscape* but shares knowledge about sea life and conservation with fishermen (and women) and scientists.

For those of you with the right computer equipment, visit their homepage at *http://www.conveyor.com/oceanvoice/html*

PO Box 37026
3332 McCarthy Road
Ottawa, ON K1V 0W0

Sierra Club of Canada (SCC)

The Sierra Club is the world's oldest conservation group, founded by John Muir in 1892 in the US in order to protect the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Sierra Club of Canada has 3 chapters and numerous local groups, and with the national office opened in early 1990, SCC now works at the local, regional, national, and international levels.

Sierra Club is a grassroots organization and its campaigns reflect its jurisdictions at different levels. Internationally SCC follows up on commitments made at the 1992 Earth Summit, and campaigns for preventing global climate change and for reforming the environmental and social policies of international funding institutions. National campaigns include problems related to forestry, pesticides and nuclear energy. Sierra Club also campaigns for clean watersheds, a regional undertaking by the Eastern Ontario Chapter. The Sierra Club's local group supports campaigns such as protecting the Leitrim Wetlands.

Suite 412, 1 Nicholas Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7
(613)241-4611, Fax: (613241-2292

Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO)

SCO is made up mostly of professional ornithologists and this is reflected in the contents of its publication *Picoides*. This is probably due to the fact that amateur ornithologists (which is what birders are) are well served by numerous other publications. Most SCO meetings take place during American Ornithologists' Union conferences, should any of you want to attend.

Membership information

Dr. Tom Dickinson, Dept of Biological Sciences
University College of The Cariboo
Kamloops, BC V2C 5N3

Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC)

Founded in 1985, this is a foundation managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the private sector. WHC not only provides policy recommendations for all levels of government, it also funds on-the-ground projects. Its goal is to preserve habitats in the five types of landscapes in Canada: agricultural, coastal, forest, northern, and urban. This group has done very well with its stewardship programs on private land.

Funds are raised by the sale of a conservation stamp to validate waterfowl hunters' migratory bird hunting permits.

7 Hinton Avenue, Suite 200
Ottawa, ON K1Y 4P1
(613)722-2090

World Wildlife Fund (Canada) (WWF)

WWF is part of the network of the World Wide Fund for Nature. Canada is one of the few countries to retain the old name. With Prince Philip as an international patron, this group is the best known in Canada (except perhaps for Greenpeace).

Most people are familiar with the panda bear logo, which gives WWF phenomenal public recognition. World Wildlife Fund (Canada) wants to conserve wild animals, plants, and habitats for their own sake, and for the long term benefit to people. This is the group that supports the rainforest program that buys acres of rainforest for long-term protection. It is also very effective with its Endangered Spaces Program which strives to complete Canada's national park system by the year 2000.

WWF also contributes smaller amounts of money to a great many other ventures, varying from research to on-the-ground projects.

Suite 504, 90 Eglinton Avenue East
Toronto, ON M4P 2Z7
(416)489-8800

Zero Population Growth of Canada

This group is now inactive in Canada due to the controversial nature of its mandate. Its main objective had been to make Canadians aware of the link between increasing human populations and their increasing consumption and the decreasing state of the environment and worsening of human health. ZPG tried to address a controversial issue that most other groups would not touch with a 10-foot pole.

Zoocheck Canada

This all-volunteer organization was established to protect captive wildlife in Canada and to participate in conservation projects of direct benefit to animals in the wild. The members believe that wild animals should be permitted to exist undisturbed in their natural environment and that zoos and wildlife displays must also serve the long-term benefit of animals and their natural environment.

Zoos are changing. They were first simply for the public to see strange animals, later for public education about the habitats of these animals. Now, however, they are less often rationalized through the flagship of education. Captive breeding for the purpose of re-introductions to the wild

are becoming the *raison-d'être* of this group – and perhaps rightly so, since habitat loss has caused 80% of species endangerment. The people behind Zoocheck are all volunteer professionals who have built illustrious careers in conservation and include Barry Kent MacKay, R.D. Lawrence, Will Steger, and Farley Mowat.

Suite 1830, 5334 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M2N 6M2
(416)696-0241

A special note on Coalitions and Networks

Coalitions seem to be the wave of the future. They are an invention of dire times for combining resources, or of urgent necessity to address a particular issue.

Canadian Environmental Network

This network, headquartered in Ottawa, is the communications hub of most grassroots organizations in Canada. It is reflected at the provincial levels with provincial environmental networks. It ambitiously keeps track of them all, through caucuses (or committees), and supports the linkage between them all so that grassroots Canadian environmental groups can be represented at the international level. It publishes the *Green List*, a directory of the environmental/conservation groups in Canada.

251 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 1004
Ottawa, ON K1P 5R3
(613)563-2078

Group of Seven

Not famous painters, but a loose coalition of national conservation groups that was formed to co-ordinate their comments and goals in order to present a united front to the federal government.

You will probably never hear about this group, but this is an example of how ENGOs work together.

Canadian Coalition against Acid Rain

This coalition was so successful, that it was disbanded in 1990. It was created specifically to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions in Canada and the US and was instrumental in passing the Clean Air Act in the US. Legal change is a long, slow, arduous process which this coalition effectively brought about by educating the public, and bringing grassroots pressure to bear on the need for legislation.

The Canadian Coalition for Biodiversity (CCB)

Made up of 9 groups (Canadian Biodiversity Institute, Canadian Nature Federation, Falls Brook Centre, Friends of the Earth, Le Rêve, Ocean Voice International, Rare Breeds Canada, Sierra Club of Canada, and West Coast Environmental Law), this coalition believes that the best strategy to protect biodiversity is through a diversity of actions by a diversity of players. Horrified that only 19% of Canadians know what biodiversity is, and knowing that biodiversity loss is the common denominator of many of our environmental problems, and that endangered species are only a sign that things are going wrong, the CCB is pooling together the efforts of its member groups to educate the public and the politicians to the importance of taking biodiversity protection into account.

Suite 412, 1 Nicholas Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7
(613)241-4611

The Canadian Endangered Species Coalition

This broad-based coalition is strictly focused on bringing in strong Canadian federal endangered species legislation. The US is eroding their legislation, and only four provinces in Canada have such legislation. The proposed legislation on the table right now does not provide for habitat protection, and only covers species found on federal lands, south of the 60th parallel.

This group also employs public education combined with astute political advocacy to reach its goal.

520-1 Nicholas Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7
(613)562-3447

For further reading:

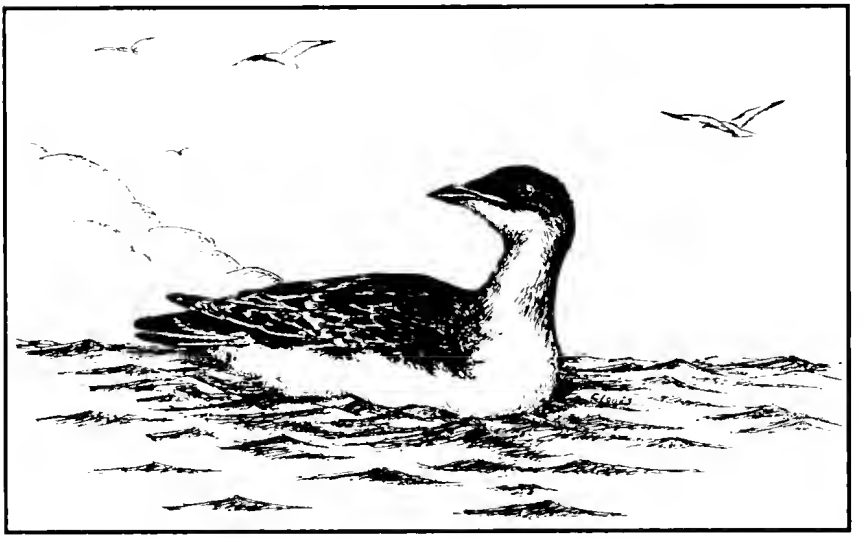
Mowat, Farley. 1990. *Rescue the Earth: Conversations with Green Crusaders*. McClelland and Stewart Inc.

Pearce, Fred. 1991. *Green Warriors: The People and Politics of the Environmental Revolution*. The Bodley Head, London, England.

coming soon ... international organizations¤

Winter Bird Sightings

Chris Traynor



Thick-billed Murre. Drawing by C. Lewis

It has always been the practice in these seasonal reviews to give a brief review of the weather but anyone who spent the winter in Ottawa knows this past winter can be summed up quite easily. Snow, snow and more snow. Actually, it did let up a little in the new year but by then we had seen a years worth anyway. Still, there was a fair bit of excitement this period (1 Dec. 95 - 29 Feb. 96) in the way of rarities so we will get right to it.

Alcids and Fulmars

It will probably be a long time before Recent Bird Sightings starts off with either an alcid or fulmar report let alone both in the same period. At dusk on the evening of December 5th an Ottawa birder, who can only rarely be dragged away from the river, observed an alcid off the point at Britannia. An alert was sent out that evening for a possible Razorbill! Of course, any alcid would have been quite acceptable and, of course, all the alcid searchers were out in force

the next morning. When the unidentified bird was spotted it was so far away as to make identification difficult, to say the least. To say the most – impossible. Fortunately the bird flew back and forth up the channel and came very close to observers at the Britannia Yacht Club. At close range the bird was identified as a **Thick-billed Murre**. No one was the least bit disappointed that it was not a Razorbill. Like other alcids, the black and white plumage (especially under varying light conditions) can make these birds difficult to identify and we were all fortunate that we did not have to settle for recording it as an "alcid species." The bird did manage to pull quite the disappearing act though. It was seen flying east towards the edge of the ice and was never seen again.

The next day one fortunate (and experienced) observer managed to tally the rare **Northern Fulmar** over Highway 417 near Kirkwood Ave. This bird was a light phase fulmar. They also have a darker sooty phase as well as varying intermediate colours. Interestingly enough, the Northern Fulmar and the Thick-billed Murre share some of the same breeding range in the arctic and both birds were sighted after strong systems from the north.

Raptors

This past winter was actually quite good for hawks and owls. All four of the available falcons were reported throughout the region, the most sought after being the **Gyrfalcon**. While the Gyrfalcon is certainly a bird we have grown accustomed to finding in a typical Ottawa winter it is still always a treat to see one. This is especially true if there appears to be only one bird in the area. With their powerful flight Gyrfalcons can cover huge expanses of territory in little time. It makes it quite a challenge to look for one. This year a light phase Gyrfalcon was observed along the Ottawa River and in the vicinity of the Trail Road Dump. The colour of this bird reminded several people of a Prairie Falcon.

Both **Rough-legged** and **Red-tailed Hawks** were found patrolling throughout the agricultural areas on the city fringes. The partially albino Red-tail seen for several years now was again spotted in the Herzberg Road/Range Road area. There were some beautiful dark phase Rough-legged birds on the Armstrong Road most of the winter. These birds with their all black bodies and white wing patterns have to be one of the most striking of all our birds of prey. There were several reports this winter of **Bald Eagle**. Not surprisingly, most of these sightings were along the Ottawa River.

By now everyone will be aware of the large numbers of **Great Gray Owls** that made birding a pleasurable experience in this tough Ottawa winter. It was the largest incursion of these incredible birds in our region since the winter of 1983-

Northern Hawk Owl. Photo by C. Traynor

84. A thorough report on these owls is being prepared and will appear in a future edition of *T&L*.

Another winter visitor that drew crowds this year was our first dependable **Northern Hawk Owl** in several years. This bird was first reported from Smyth Road on December 9 and was present until March 1. Also noteworthy this winter was the presence of a good number of **Barred Owls**. The Barred is a resident bird generally found around feeder areas in the winter. Both the Pink Road and the Mer Bleue feeders had these owls this winter. As well, they were reported in several woodlots and city parks including Vincent Massey and Hampton. The bird in Hampton Park was actually spotted on the Christmas Bird Count by two diligent birders who took time off from playing on the park's slide to get in a little birding. Its a good thing the swings were down or it might have been missed! (Just teasing.) The Hampton Park bird also ventured into the pine trees in a small courtyard off Buell Street. This is really not the bird you expect to see in your front yard in the city.

The Dunrobin-Breckenridge CBC added two new locations for those seeking the elusive **Eastern Screech Owl** in the region. One bird near Kinburn was flushed from its hole (they usually drop into their holes) while the other was heard on the Thomas Dolan Parkway despite the steady wind, which made it

difficult for morning owling. While Sereeeh Owls are resident, there is a dispersal of young birds in the fall, so the presence of these birds does not neeessarily indieate breeding territories.

Odds and Ends

Adding some eolour to our winter were good numbers of both **Pine Grosbeak** and **Bohemian Waxwing**. Both these species eould be readily encountered anywhere berries were present. The Arboretum, as usual, was a good bet for the Bohemians. The Pine Grosbeaks were widespread. It is amazing how few of these birds are seen dead on the road eonsidering their tendency to obtain grit from roadsides.

The sparrow highlight of the winter was the **Harris Sparrow** in south Ottawa. This large northern sparrow was regular all winter. Other winter treats that remained faithful to their feeders ineluded the **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** on Trimm Road (Navan) and Smith Road (Oxford Station). The **Varied Thrush** reported from Ashton in the fall made it into the winter period (Dec. 2) but was not reported again. The **Carolina Wren** on Burnbank in Nepean was aetually just outside the Christmas Bird Count circle. Too bad!

A eomplete round-up of the Ottawa CBC by Bruee Di Labio will appear in the Oet.-Dec. issue of *T&L*.

Farther Afield

Secretive Kingston was the plaee to be for unusual highlights this winter. Exeeptional was the **Black-tailed Godwit** lingering throughout Deeember. While this bird's fate will never be known it was seen with small amounts of ice elinging to its feathers. Fortunately, godwits arc powerful flyers and it is possible that the next day it was far from the land of snow and ice. If the godwit was not enough, a resplendent male **Tufted Duck** was seen in Kingston near the Dupont Plant (Feb. 17). It appears there was a delay before Ottawa birders were made aware of its presence (this is true of the godwit as well) but we suspeet it had been there for awhile. A poorly kept seeret was the exeeptional winter for a eertain speeies of small owl from the boreal forest on a certain island in Lake Ontario (5 in onc day!). But you didn't hear it from me!

Winter Bird Sightings refleet those reports called in to the bird status line augmented by the author's own reeords and personal eommunieations. Thanks also to Christina Lewis for the Thiek-billed Murre drawing.¤

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Events

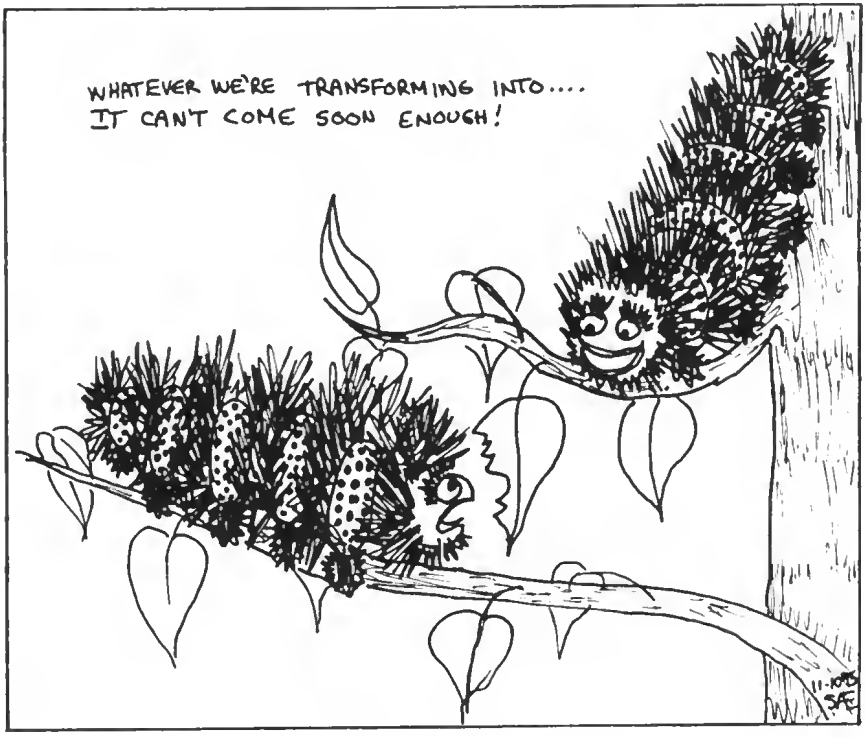
Summer and Fall 1996

Christine Hanrahan and Sandy Garland

Sunday 28 July 10:00 a.m. to noon	Want to attract butterflies to your garden? Join Gillian Boyd, who created our butterfly meadow, at the FWG Interpretive Centre for a practical, how-to session on establishing a backyard butterfly garden. Afterwards, take a tour of the FWG to look for butterflies with Peter Hall, co-author of an upcoming book on butterflies of Canada. This will also be the launch of the updated *Checklist of Butterflies of the Ottawa Region*. Come and get your copy of this long-awaited publication.
Sunday 25 August 9:00 a.m. to noon	Birdwatching for beginners. Well-known local birder and chair of the FWG management committee, Jeff Harrison, will provide a basic overview of how you can get started in birding. A tour of the FWG is part of the course, so you can test your newly acquired skills. Bring binoculars and dress for hiking please.
Saturday 7 September 10:00 a.m. to noon	What's exotic about the FWG ravine? Join botanist Don Cuddy, of the Ministry of Natural Resources, for a fascinating outdoor workshop on invasive plants. Don will also talk about native plants and which ones are best for attracting wildlife. Meet at the Interpretive Centre.
Sunday 22 September 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Fly away with the birds! An informative, fun-filled journey around the garden to discover the mysteries of migration. Pick up a "passport" and follow the birds. Local experts will be on hand to give tours and answer questions. Hot coffee and goodies will await you at the Centre after your excursion. Lots of information about birds, bird feeding and gardening.
Saturday 28 September 10:00 a.m. to noon	For the past 10 years, Philip Fry has been turning a 15-acre site south of Kemptville into an oasis of native flora and fauna. Those who missed the OFNC-sponored talk in March will have a chance to see slides of the project and hear Philip describe his work; those who know him already will be interested in some new ideas he is developing. Meet at the Interpretive Centre.

Sunday **6 October** **10:00 a.m.** **to** **1:00 p.m.**	It's time to think about getting out the feeder. Build a new bird feeder for your backyard under the guidance of a knowledgeable instructor. Several types for different seeds and species.

Related exhibits and take-away information will be available at the Interpretive Centre during all these events. Refreshments will also be served; bring your own mug if you can. All activities free, but donations gratefuly accepted. For more information, call 730-5968 (Jeff Harrison), 730-0714 (Sandy Garland), or 798-1620 (Christine Hanrahan).¤



Cartoon by Sylvia A. Edlund

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee
For further information,
call the Club number (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to E.M. Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. We also wish to discourage the actual payment of bus fees on the day of the event.

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Club members must be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours.

BIRD STATUS LINE: Phone 860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings call Michael Tate at 825-1231. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.

Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais has a similar service, in French, run by Daniel St-Hilaire. The Club number is 778-3413 and the Bird Status Line is 778-0737.

Sunday
7 July
8:30 a.m.

BUTTERFLIES OF THE SEASON AND WETLAND SPECIALITIES

Leader: Bob Bracken

Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue.

This all-day outing will visit several selected wetland habitats west of the city. Sedge Skippers, Hairstreaks and Coppers will be encountered as well as some of the more elusive species such as the Baltimore. Bring lunch, suitable footwear and a butterfly net, if you have one.

Tuesday
9 July
7:30 p.m.

FERN IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP
Leader: Bill Arthurs
Meet: Activity Room 33, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe at McLeod Streets.
This will be a workshop on the fascinating lifestyles of the ferns in preparation for the field trip scheduled for Saturday July 13th. The use of identification keys, microscopic examination of spores and spore cases *(Sporangia)* and preparation methods will be covered. Also to be discussed will be species suitable for cultivation in your garden.

Saturday
13 July
1:00 p.m.

FERN IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP
Leader: Bill Arthurs
Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard at Smyth Road.
This will be a half-day outing in the Mer Bleue Conservation Area to locate and identify species studied during the workshop identification session.

Sunday
14 July
8:00 a.m.
to
8:00 p.m.

BUS EXCURSION
TO CHAFFEY'S LOCKS
Leaders: Bob Bracken and Peter Hall
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.
Cost: $25.00 (includes transportation and a B.B.Q. supper at the Biology Station).
(PLEASE REGISTER EARLY ... see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of Coming Events section for details).
This excursion features a visit to the Queen's University Biology Station as well as the trails and facilities of the Skycroft Outdoor Centre. This area of the Rideau Lakes district represents a transition zone where many southern species of plants and animals reach their northern limit. Highlights may include Cerulean Warblers, Golden-winged Warblers, Black-billed Cuckoos and the Black Rat Snake, as well as rare ferns and butterflies. A boat trip to observe nesting Ospreys on Lake Opinicon may be arranged. A barbecue supper with salads and dessert will be held in the late afternoon before the return trip to Ottawa. Remember to bring your own lunch and a drink, binoculars and a bathing suit.

Wednesday
17 July
9:30 a.m.

MID-WEEK INSECT WALK AROUND MER BLEUE
Leader: Fenja Brodo
Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard at Smyth Road.
CANCELLED with apologies
The boardwalk takes us over open water and across a sphagnum bog then into the woods and across a wildflower meadow. Along the way we stop to see a myriad of insects and study some of them closely with magnification. Bring lunch, hat, [illegible] bad particpants are invited to the Brodo laboratory at 28 Benson St. to study pinned insects. Call Fenja at 723-2054 in the morning to confirm which trip is on.

Saturday
20 July
7:00 a.m.

BIRDING TOUR OF THE EASTERN SEWAGE LAGOONS
Leader: Bruce Di Labio
Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Boulevard at Smyth Road.
This long, half-day outing is intended primarily for novice birdwatchers to improve their skills in the identification of migrating shorebirds and interesting species of breeding waterfowl. Several sewage lagoons located near small communities east of Ottawa will be visited.

August
Date to be decided

NIGHT-FLYING MOTHS IN AUGUST
Leader: Don Lafontaine
This will be an evening excursion in a local area starting at about 7:00 p.m. some time in August when the weather is favourable. Don will attract a variety of moths to a sheet with a light and identify them. The trip is limited to the first 25 people to register with the Club number (722-3050) by July 30th. Participants will be notified of the exact details once they have been determined.

Saturday
10 August
9:00 a.m.

MINNOWS, MUDPUPPIES AND MOLLUSCS: CREATURES FROM A HIDDEN WORLD
Leader: Bob Bracken
Meet: Entrance gate to the Britannia Filtration Plant
This will be a rare opportunity for Club members to observe some of the diverse life forms that dwell under the surface of the water. We hope to identify over a dozen species of fish (mainly minnows) as well as locate the region's only true aquatic salamander. This will also be an occasion to learn some of the common molluscs of the Ottawa area. Rubber boots or hip waders are preferable but old running shoes and shorts for wading in shallow water are acceptable. A small seine net will be used to capture the fish. Please bring a lunch, a drink and insect repellent for this outing of 4 or 5 hours duration. In the event of rain on Saturday, the trip will be held on Sunday August 11th instead.

Saturday
24 August
8:30 a.m.

PTERIDOPHYTES: THE FERNS AND FERN ALLIES OF STONY SWAMP
Leader: Bob Bracken
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.
This full-day outing is intended to view some of the 50 locally surviving species of the first vascular plant groups that reigned supreme when dinosaurs ruled. The emphasis will be on species identification and diversification and a number of regionally rare species should be seen. Please bring a lunch, plenty of liquids, insect repellent and comfortable footwear (preferably hiking boots). There will be no washroom facilities available at the study area.

Sunday
25 August
7:00 a.m.

SHOREBIRD IDENTIFICATION OUTING
Leader: Tony Beck
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue.
This half-day outing will provide novices and intermediate birdwatchers with an excellent opportunity to acquaint themselves with the characteristic field marks of immature and adult shorebirds. Tony will also provide instruction as to some of the more subtle identification aids that are not readily apparent.

Date and Time to be decided

MUSHROOM FIELD TRIP
Leader: Jim Ginns
This outing will be limited to 25 participants. Please register before September 1st at the Club number (722-3050). When a precise date has been selected, registrants will be notified of details and the meeting place.

Date and Time to be decided

VISIT TO THE INDIAN RIVER OBSERVATORY AT ALMONTE
Leaders: Philip Martin (OFNC) and Glen Le Drew of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.
Meet: Neatby Building, front entrance, Central Experimental Farm, one block west of the Irving Place-Maple Lane Drive stoplight on Carling Avenue.
Members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will show Club participants some celestial attractions readily observed on a clear autumn evening. Bring warm clothing and a hot beverage. A map with directions will be distributed at the meeting place. The trip is limited to 25 people so please register by September 15th at the Club number (722-3050). Philip will advise registrants when the specific date has been established. Unfavourable weather close to the date may necessitate rescheduling.

Monday 2 September 9:30 a.m.

ASTERS AND GOLDENRODS
Leaders: Ellaine Dickson and Catherine O'Keefe
Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.
Bring a snack for this half-day trip as well as "Goldenrods" *T&L* 25(4):114-121 and "Asters of the Ottawa District" *T&L* 29(3):89-99 or any other field guides that may help solve the identification riddles posed by the various species of asters and goldenrods.

Saturday
7 September
9:30 a.m.

GEOLOGY TRIP: THE ROCKHOUND 1

Leaders: Geof Burbidge (821-7764) and
Bruce Summers (521-8693)

Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance, Wellington at Kent Street.

The entire day will be spent at the Morrison Quarry located at Farm Point, Quebec along Highway 105, approximately 5.5 km north from the end of Highway 5 (watch for the bungee jumping signs!). This quarry offers the beginning mineral collector a beautiful variety of common and uncommon minerals easily found loose in the gravel piles or, for the more adventurous, in the tailings piles of the former Alcan brucite mine. Very large apatite, mica and other crystals have been retrieved from the tailings. A dozen minerals guaranteed for the day! Other features of note are the mineralisation in the quarry face itself, an active and easily observed beaver lodge and pond and, of course, bungee jumping every 15 minutes. Wear sturdy shoes if you want to scramble on the rocks. Bring a packsack for your samples, small bags (baggies or paper bags), marking pen, notepad, penknife and a lunch. If you have the following please bring them: rock hammer, large chisel, magnifier or hand lens. Eye protection (eyeglasses or goggles) is mandatory if you are hammering. If it rains on the 7th, the trip will be held on the following Saturday. Call either leader between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m on the day of the event for trip confirmation if the weather looks doubtful.

Sunday
8 September
12:00 p.m.

VISIT TO THE OLD-FIELD GARDEN NEAR OXFORD STATION

Leader: Philip Fry

Meet: Lincoln Heights Galleria, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

In March of this year, Philip spoke to Club members about the marvelous landscape restoration project he has undertaken on an old farm property south of Kemptville. He has kindly offered to conduct an afternoon tour that will focus on the different habitats, gardens, plantings and wildlife, that abound on the property. The outing will be limited to the first 25 members to register with the Club number (722-3050) before August 18th. Sturdy but comfortable footwear is recommended.

Tuesday 10 September 8:00 p.m.	**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING** **MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT** **Meet:** Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets. **Admission:** At least one natural history slide or a 50 cent donation to the Alfred Bog Fund. An ideal occasion to share your favourite natural history slides and reminiscences of past trips, both local and further afield, with fellow Club members. Those bringing a single slide need not speak if they so choose. Those bringing up to the maximum of 15 slides should contact either Rick Leavens (835-3336) or Catherine O'Keefe (745-4441) to prearrange their presentation.

Sunday
15 September
8:00 a.m.
to
5:00 p.m.

ANNUAL PICNIC: BUS TRIP TO THE COOPER MARSH CONSERVATION AREA

Cost: $10.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY ... see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of COMING EVENTS for details).
The Cooper Marsh Conservation Area is located on the shores of Lake St. Francis (a widening of the St. Lawrence River) about 18 km east of Cornwall. The sanctuary offers several kilometres of interpretive trails and boardwalks that pass by treed swamps, marshlands, upland meadows, wooded areas, small streams and standing ponds. A viewing tower and a splendid Visitors Centre with excellent displays are located on the property. Participants will be able to supplement their own lunch with cheese, apples and cake that will be supplied for a nominal charge of $3.00. Please support the Club by taking the bus rather than your own car. Children are most welcome on this outing.

Saturday
21 September
7:30 a.m.

FALL BIRDING IN THE WEST END
Leader: Jim Harris
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue.
This half-day outing will permit the group to visit several spots in the west end of Ottawa in quest of fall migrants.

Date and Time to be decided

GULLS OF THE CORNWALL POWER DAM
Leader: Bruce Di Labio
Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, St. Laurent Blvd. at Smyth Road.
This will be a full-day outing to the American side of the Moses-Saunders Power Dam to observe various species of gulls in different stages of their development. Bring a passport or other proof of citizenship or residency for entry into the U.S.A. Please contact the Club number (722-3050) by October 1st to register for this trip. Registrants will be notified when the specific time and date are established.

Sunday
6 October
9:00 a.m.
to
4:00 p.m.

BUS EXCURSION:
AUTUMN COLOURS IN GATINEAU PARK
Leaders: Colin Gaskell and Catherine O'Keefe
Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance, Wellington at Kent Street.
Cost: $8.00 (PLEASE REGISTER EARLY ... see Registered Bus Trips at the beginning of COMING EVENTS for details).
Gatineau Park with its rugged blend of escarpment, rolling hardwood hills, coniferous forests, beaver ponds and glacially carved lakes is traditionally ablaze with autumnal colours at this picturesque time of year. Our tour will visit several interesting locales within the Park affording ample opportunity to wander along different trails to observe signs of nature at this season.

Tuesday
8 October
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
GATINEAU PARK: AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT
Speaker: J. David Andrews
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe at McLeod Streets.
David Andrews is an acclaimed natural history and landscape photographer with an extensive background in wilderness guiding and exploration. The splendour of Gatineau Park in all seasons is magnificently communicated through his prose and photography in *GATINEAU PARK: AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT* , which he published in 1994. (Copies of the book will be available for sale at the conclusion of his presentation). As an added attraction, he will show a select number of slides from his adventures in the Northwest Territories which depict the rugged and striking beauty of that vast landscape.

Sunday 20 October 7:30 a.m.	**FALL BIRDING ALONG THE OTTAWA RIVER** **Leader:** Tony Beck **Meet:** Britannia Drive-In Theatre, 3090 Carling Avenue. Participants will visit several locales along the Ottawa River on a half-day outing to observe waterfowl and other migrating species.¤

Looking for Friends

Birder without transportation looking for friends to bird with afternoons and evenings. Will share expenses. Please call Jeff at 565-6045.¤

Any Articles for Trail & Landscape?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*. If you have access to an IBM or IBM-compatible computer using 5.25 or 3.5 inch diskettes, all the better. If you don't, we will happily receive submissions in any form—typed, written, printed or painted!

DEADLINE: Material intended for the October-December 1996 issue must be in the editor's hands by August 15, 1996. Mail your manuscripts to:

Fenja Brodo
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Nepean, Ontario, K2E 5J5
H: (613)723-2054; Fax: (813) 953-9831.

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